

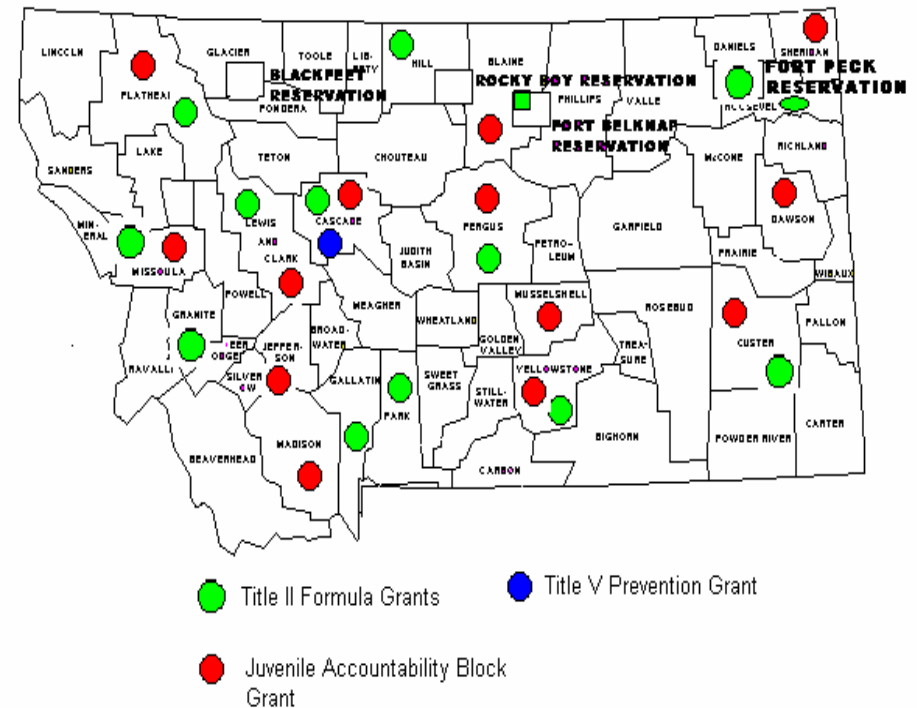


**The mission of the Youth Justice Council is to improve the juvenile justice system by serving the best interest of Montana's youth, families, and citizens by supporting research-based programs with positive outcomes.**

Copies made possible through funding from the Montana Board of Crime Control

## Youth Justice Advisory Council's Report to the Governor And Montana State Legislature

**Juvenile Justice Grants  
2004 - 2005**



**Montana Board of Crime  
Control  
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mbcc.mt.gov**

Greetings:

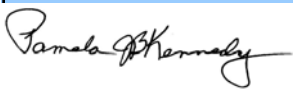
As Chair of the Youth Justice Council, I am pleased to present the Council's Annual Report. This report summarizes the activities of the Council including programs funded by the Office of Juvenile and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Title II Block Grant, Title V Block Grant and the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant. This report also provides updates and data as to the progression of the juvenile delinquency prevention and accountability efforts in the state of Montana.

The Council has provided local and state agency leadership and direction by supporting programs that concentrate on prevention, intervention, accountability, and restorative justice. The majority of the grant-funded programs are structured after OJJDP's Best Practice Programs and continue to make great strides towards decreasing juvenile delinquency, recidivism, and promoting rehabilitation. Montana's youth are often facing challenges with mental health, neglect, violence, and chemical dependency. By supporting community based efforts to serve youth and their families the YJC hopes to curb these issues by sustaining programs dedicated to assisting youth with the challenges they face.

Montana is joining ranks with 19 other states in a research-based program promoting alternatives to detention. The Council along with dedicated community members are in the early stages of developing and implementing the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). This cutting edge initiative concentrates on detaining youth only if they are a flight risk or a risk to community safety. JDAI promotes community based programs that encourage different opportunities for youth to develop into healthy and productive adults. JDAI also provides the state with technical assistance and information based on model programs developed in other states.

As the state of Montana continues to make advances in the area of juvenile justice, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Youth Justice Council, Montana Board of Crime Control, and the vigilant community leaders for dedicating their time and effort to issues extremely important to Montana's future, our children.

Sincerely,



Pamela B. Kennedy  
Youth Justice Council Chair

## Programs and Priorities

### Title II Block Grants for FY 2005

- Alliance for Youth Assessment Center– Cascade County
- Billings Kids Integrated Delivery System (KIDS) Pilot Project– Yellowstone County
- Restorative Justice Through Youth Employment– Hill County
- Beyond the Circle– Cascade County
- Juvenile Justice Grant– Park County
- Community Youth Justice Council– Lewis & Clark Co.
- First Step Health Educator Program– Custer County
- Compliance Monitoring Contract– MBCC
- 2006 MBI Summit– OPI

### Title V Block Grant for FY 2005

- Integrated Prevention– Cascade County

### Priorities established in YJC Three Year Strategic Plan

#### Prevention

- Truancy programs
- Early identification services
- Diversion programming

#### Intervention

- Training for staff involved within juvenile justice system
- Improved electronic information sharing
- Improved access to services while in detention
- Technical assistance such as JDAI for statewide detention centers

#### Accountability

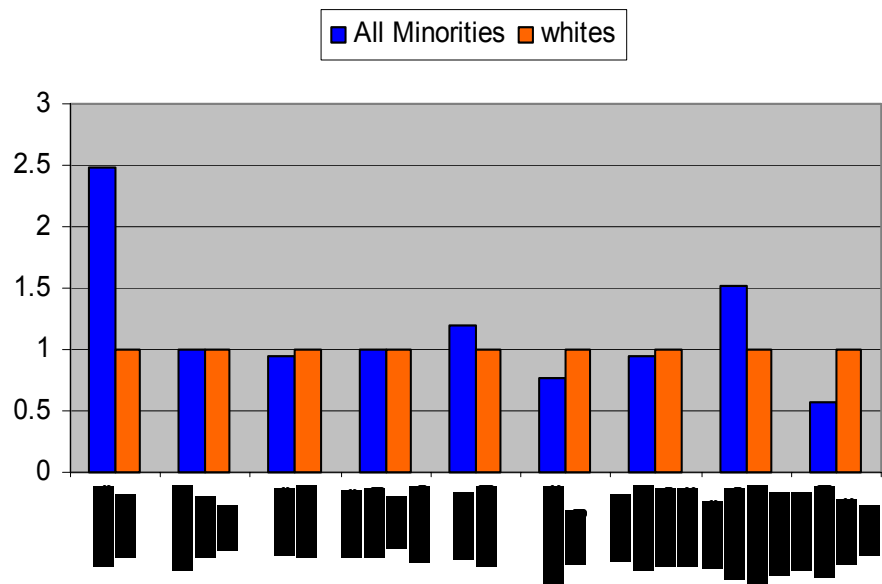
- Training for judges and lawyers in holding youth Accountable

## Disproportionate Minority Contact Data and Priorities

### Themes from the DMC Strategic Plan

- Expand communication and collaboration efforts by developing a communication system to exchange ideas concerning DMC
- Increase Tribal participation in grants process and information sharing
- Elevate DMC to a statewide priority for the legislature and review existing policies for DMC impact
- Coordinate statewide training and education regarding DMC issues

### Relative Rate Index (RRI) Data 2004



The Relative Rate Index (RRI) is used to identify DMC issues in the juvenile justice system. To examine and identify the index values that are significant, the RRI uses an index value of 1.00 to represent rates that are essentially the same, meaning there is not a significant DMC issue in that category. The 2004 RRI data shows that there are significant DMC issues in the fields of juvenile arrests, cases petitioned, and cases resulting in secure confinement. It is also evident that cases being diverted or resulting in a delinquent finding are lower than what they statistically should be given the rate of juvenile arrests being so high.

### The Youth Justice Council:

- Develops annual plans to implement the objectives of the OJJDP Act and to promote the development of an effective and coordinated juvenile justice system in the State of Montana.
- Consults on funding for grant applications pursuant to the OJJDP Act in a manner consistent with the State's 3 Year Plan and forwards funding recommendations to the Montana Board of Crime Control
- Advises the Governor, the Legislature, and the MBCC on Juvenile Justice matters and performs such other duties as assigned by the Governor, Legislature and the MBCC.

### YJC Members:

Pam Kennedy—Chair	Joy Mariska	Rick Robinson
Dale Four Bear	Fr. Jerry Lowney	Hon. Pedro Hernandez
Ted Lechner	Katie Yother	Donnalyn Strangeowl
Wayne Stanford	Bonnie Wallem	Jennifer Kistler
Teri Young	Penny Kip	

### Ex-Officio Members:

Karin Billings	Beth McLaughlin	Steve Gibson	Cathy Kendal
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### MANDATES

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 2002 compels states to staff a Youth Justice Council, Juvenile Justice Specialist, and comply with 4 core requirements in order to be eligible to receive federal funding. **The 4 core requirements are:**

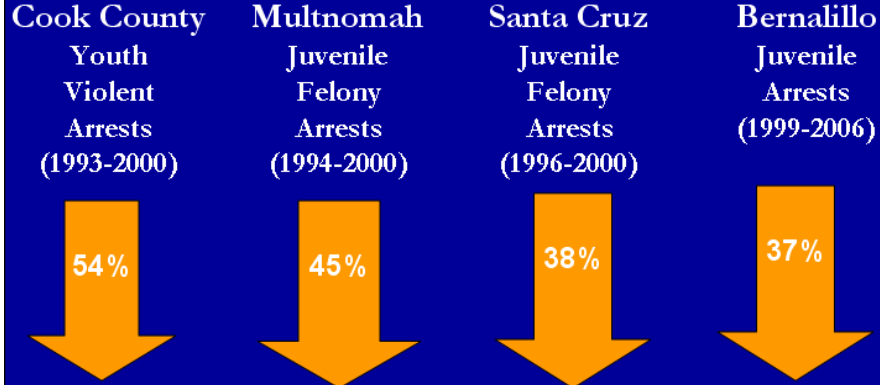
- Deinstitutionalization of status offenders and non-offenders (**DSO**)
- Elimination of detention or confinement of juveniles in adult jails and lockups (**Removal**)
- Sight and sound separation of juveniles from adults in secure facilities (**Separation**)
- Reduce the disproportionate number of juvenile minority members who come into contact with the juvenile justice System (**DMC**)

## Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative

Montana joins ranks with 19 other states nationwide who are demonstrating the effectiveness of this initiative in providing for public safety, maintaining youth in their communities, and saving tax payers dollars.

### Juvenile Crime Reduced at JDAI Model Sites

Source: JDAI Model Site Results Reports, 2005.

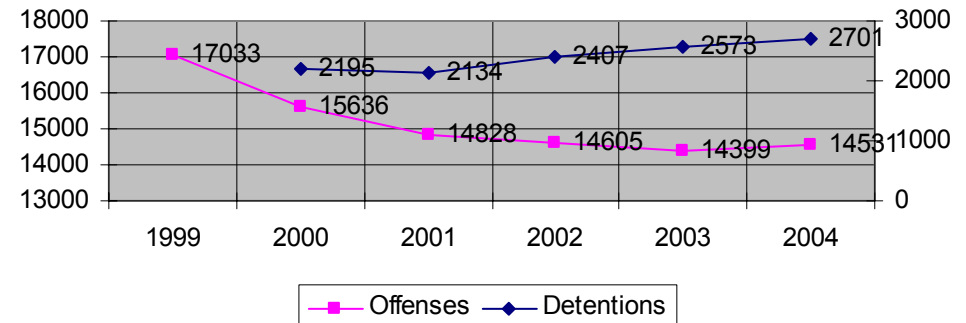


#### JDAI has four basic objectives:

- To eliminate the inappropriate or unnecessary use of secure detention;
- To minimize re-arrest and failure-to-appear rates pending adjudication;
- To ensure appropriate conditions of confinement in secure facilities; and,
- To redirect public finances to sustain successful reforms.

## Detention in Montana

### Statewide Juvenile Justice Offenses 1999-2004



The above chart shows that while offenses have declined from 1999-2004, detention placements have shown a gradual increase from 2000-2004.

#### Detention Regions

Montana has five regional detention districts. A Regional Board oversees the budget for detention or alternative detention placement in each district. Each region must submit a yearly plan to the Montana Board of Crime Control to access state general funds. State general funds are provided to reimburse counties for their detention expenses. As detention costs increase, the state general funds for detention have declined. Counties are now responsible for approximately 66% of detention funding.

A 2004 Montana Advocacy Program (MAP) survey of 4 Detention Centers noted the following needs:

- Electronic information sharing.
- Lack of mental health screening and assessment tools available.
- Lack of treatment services for youth with identified mental health needs
- Lack of crisis services
- 3 out of 4 facilities reported an estimated 50 – 80% of their population had mental health issues
- Lack of community services available.